

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1960



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F.E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1961.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district remained satisfactory during the year. Although measles was prevalent during the first half of the year, there was no undue incidence of more serious notifiable disease.

The vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Bob J. Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

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- A. Area - 1,650 acres
Rateable value: 1st April 1961 - £94,755
Production of a penny rate: 1960/61 - £358 (estimated)
1961/62 - £370 (estimated)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,240

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
			(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales
Total	50	37	Rate per 1,000	
Legitimate	48	34	resident pop:	
Illegitimate	2	3	= 12.1	
			15.4	17.1

STILLBIRTHS

Total	2	Nil	Rate per 1,000	
(Both			live & stillbirths	
Legitimate)			= 22.5	19.7
			22.5	

DEATHS

Total	38	47	Rate per 1,000	
			resident pop:	
			= 11.7	11.5
			10.9	

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	1	Infantile death	
Under 4 Weeks	Nil	1	rate per 1,000	
(Legitimate)			live births	
			= 11.5	21.7
			11.5	

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs	1	1	Nil	1
" " Other Cancer	22	13	12	7
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	9	13	10	9
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	31	25	35	16
" " Influenza	Nil	4	Nil	2
" " Pneumonia	2	4	3	6
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	1	1	Nil
" " Suicide	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	1	1

B. Nature of the District

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council.

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the Dorset County Council, which include, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, care and after care of the blind and handicapped and health education. The following responsibilities call for particular comment.

The Domestic Help Service The appointment of a part time paid local organiser for the North Dorset area has increased the efficiency of the service in your district. Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of home helps in view of the alternate demands on available persons in Sherborne, but the service in your district can now be considered to be reasonably satisfactory.

The Welfare of Aged People Through its well organised scheme (including the co-ordinated services of the Health visiting, domestic help, home nursing services and the social welfare officer) the increasing responsibilities in respect to old people are being efficiently carried out. The lack of an adequate number of hospital beds for the chronic and aged sick puts a particular strain on the County Council's services at some times of the year. An efficient scheme is in operation to ensure that, as far as possible the best use is made of the beds available and the available places in the County Council's homes for old people.

The valuable work which the Dorset Branch of the British Red Cross Society does towards the welfare of old people in the district requires acknowledgment. Acting as agent for the County Council, amongst its other activities, the British Red Cross has established foot clinics throughout the County.

In Sherborne three or four treatment sessions are held a month with an average attendance of nine persons for treatment. Forty five patients were on the register at the end of the year.

Mention should also be made of the scheme under which the County Council makes financial assistance available to the local housing authority for welfare provisions in connection with houses built for the particular needs of old people.

Problem Families In an attempt to prevent the break up of families both from humane considerations and the resultant financial cost, the County Council co-operate closely with the housing authority by rent guarantees and other action, as may appear appropriate.

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding years.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to thirty nine years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Two treatments	253	(782)	(1,112)
Three treatments	511	(1,525)	-

Diphtheria

Primary treatments	74	(90)	(64)
Booster treatments	130	(85)	(46)

Whooping Cough

Primary treatments	73	(78)	(80)
Booster treatments	21	(14)	(4)

Tetanus

Primary treatments	87	(75)	(32)
Booster treatments	27	(8)	(1)

Smallpox

Primary vaccinations	72	(59)	(75)
Re-vaccinations	16	(39)	(14)

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis

-	(183)	-
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D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn,
M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time)

WATER SUPPLY

<u>Rainfall</u>	-	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
		34.12 ins.	31.34 ins.	44.19 ins.

Supplies remained satisfactory and adequate throughout the year.

107 regular monthly samples from the Council's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and two samples were submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.2 and 0.3 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies twenty samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

Wessex Water Board

During the year negotiations were still being pursued between your Council and the following local Authorities to form a joint water board - Yeovil and Chard Borough Councils; Crewkerne and Ilminster Urban District Councils and Sherborne, Chard, Langport, Yeovil and Wincanton Rural District Councils.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The alterations and improvements at the sewage disposal works at the cost of £32,109 were almost completed during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage Fifty nine tons of paper and two tons of rags were collected during the year.

Cesspool Emptying No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SHOPS ACTS

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	<u>11</u>
No. of defects found	<u>Nil</u>
No. of notices served	<u>Nil</u>
No. of notices complied with	<u>Nil</u>

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspec- tions</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	7	9
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	64
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	2	2
	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 75

FACTORIES ACT/ (Continued)

No. of cases in which defects
were:-

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by Factory Inspector</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Unsuitable or defective	9	9	2
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-
Total	9	9	2

No. of outworkers - 114

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Forty-nine observations and visits to plants were made during the year. The provision of two new oil fired installations and the closing down of one plant, towards the end of the year, proved successful in abating some long standing nuisances.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

The number of moveable dwellings licensed during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936 was fifteen.

The coming into operation of the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act, 1960 was most welcome. As a result no application was made for planning permission for continued use of the least satisfactory site in the district. At the end of the year the future of the remaining site was undetermined.

It does appear essential that, if caravans are accepted as suitable long term dwellings, a statutory standard for overcrowding should be laid down in the same manner as is done in respect to dwelling houses.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Disinfestation against vermin was carried out at one house following the death of the tenant prior to the disposal of the effects.

At seven houses clusters of flies (*musca autumnalis*) were dealt with. A troublesome infestation with silver fish and one with cockroaches were successfully dealt with

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered two hundred and fifty eight compared with four hundred and fifty eight during the previous year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises	<u>1</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>2</u>

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

Redecoration of the central school kitchen and dining room at Simon Road was carried out. The general standard of hygiene remained satisfactory.

The sanitary accommodation at the Council school has been improved but sanitary accommodation at the Abbey School (trough closets) remains unsatisfactory and it is hoped that action will be taken to replace these with more hygienic sanitary facilities.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

HOUSING

Total number of houses in the district 2,138

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 40

No. of inspections made 48

No. of informal notices served 4

No. of informal notices complied with 4

No. of statutory notices served Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1957

Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil

Reconditioning Nil

Other Action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during
the year

Nil

Slum Clearance

Clearance areas represented in 1959 were confirmed during the year and two sites were cleared for new housing development.

No further proposed clearance areas or individual unfit houses were represented to you during the year.

It is anticipated that further representations will be made during 1961. These, will of course, be in respect to houses considered to be unfit for human occupation by the very low standard of fitness laid down in the Housing Act, 1958.

In addition to the remaining houses of this category in your district, there are a considerable number which although not 'unfit' within the meaning of the Housing Act, are by all reasonable standards in the present state of society unfit for family use. A fixed bath and a running hot water supply, a readily accessible W.C. are no longer mere amenities, but, it is suggested, present day necessities.

Slum Clearance (Continued)

Is it unreasonable to expect a time limit being fixed, after which the lack of such necessities will make a house statutorily unfit for human habitation?

Overcrowding

No 'statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings

Improvement Grants

Four 'Discretionary' and twenty 'Standard' improvement grants were made during the year.

New Houses

One new house was built by private enterprise during the year and twenty eight by the Council. Twenty two of these were additional old peoples dwellings at Durrant Close.

Fifty three families were housed by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration
by the District Council _____ 8

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject
to registration _____ 2

No. of 'distributors' subject to reg-
istration _____ Nil

Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	_____ 12
Pasteurised	_____ -
Undesignated	_____ 36

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies (Continued)

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	26
Canteens - School and workplace	8
Confectioners	10
Meat and Fish	10
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	6
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	7
Food Factories	2
Stalls	4
Other	7

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice cream	34
Sausages & Prepared Meats	2
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 103

Eighty six of the before-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, one hundred and twenty inspections being carried out.

Co-operation was obtained in the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations and no 'exemption certificates' were recommended or granted. Constant supervision of the market stalls is required.

Byelaws in respect of the Handling and Wrapping of Food etc., are operative in the district.

Food Inspection

Butchers' and Other Shops

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned -

Meat	-	436 lbs.
Other	-	197½ lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Food All food condemned at food shops is disposed of at the refuse tip and meat from the slaughterhouses at a knackers yard.

Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The appointed day by which these two slaughterhouses are required to comply with the structural regulations in accordance with the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 is April 1st, 1961.

From the following table it will be seen that the total number of animals slaughtered in the two slaughterhouses rose to 13,078 an increase of 2,804 over 1959. The number of carcasses for 'export' rose by 3,261 an increase of 50% on the 1959 total.

No cattle were found to be affected with tuberculosis - a record.

Six hundred and fifty seven visits were made to the slaughterhouses by the Meat Inspector.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>Including</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	751	9,350	1,832	1,145
Number Inspected	751	9,350	1,832	1,145
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis &</u> <u>Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	28	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	78	52	62	242
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.39%	0.87%	3.44%	21.31%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.31%

Cysticercosis: (Continued over)

	<u>Cattle Including Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condem- ned	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,590
Total No. informal notices served	16
Total No. of informal notices complied with	16
Total No. of statutory notices served	5
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	5
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

The Radioactive Substances Act came into operation during the year.

No information has been received during the year, under the Act, indicating premises where radioactive material is in use or in respect to authorised arrangements made for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests no deterioration in the present position.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	119
Scarlet Fever	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Whooping Cough	3

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Nil	Nil

Food Poisoning -

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

